

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /071 W

-----271721Z 070403 /43

O R 271705Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9966

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01507

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFING ON JANUARY 25-26

EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING: EURO/ARAB

DIALOGUE

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1. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE OF THE PRESIDENCY'S REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING IN TUNIS. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT IN ANY CONTACTS WITH THE ARABS, THE COMMUNITY MUST MAKE CLEAR THAT IT ACCEPTS NO LINKAGE BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS WITHIN THE DIALOGUE AND EURO-ARAB POLITICAL EXCHANGE.

2. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS ALSO APPROVED EC TACTICS FOR TUNIS WHICH THE WORKING GROUP HAD SUGGESTED. SPECIFICALLY, IT WAS AGREED THAT IF THERE WERE MORE PRESSURE IN TUNIS BY THE ARABS FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSION, THE RESPONSE OF THE EC SHOULD BE NEUTRAL AND NON-COMMITTAL. THE COMMUNITY WOULD ONLY UNDERTAKE TO STUDY SUCH ARAB SUGGESTIONS.

3. DURING THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION, FRENCH ARGUED THE EC SHOULD OFFER THE ARABS AT TUNIS POLITICAL SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION, OTHER THAN THE MIDDLE EAST. TWO OF THESE WOULD BE "PREPARATIONS FOR CSCE" AND "WATERS ADJACENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, NOT INCLUDING THE MEDITERRANEAN." HOWEVER, THE FRENCH WERE FINALLY HELD OFF AND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO MINISTERS THAT THE COMMUNITY WAIT UNTIL IT RECEIVED SPECIFIC ARAB SUGGESTIONS FOR POLITICAL EXCHANGE BEFORE MAKING A JUDGMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED.

4. THE EC EXPERTS, WHO ARE MEETING JANUARY 27, WERE DIRECTED TO COMPLETE A STATEMENT WHICH THE COMMUNITY WILL USE AT THE TUNIS MEETING.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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